



LOUISIANA SENATE

For Immediate Release

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SEN. GATTI OUTLINES MAJOR BILLS HE IS AUTHORIZING AT 2016 REGULAR SESSION OF LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

MEASURES RELATE TO ABORTION, MEDICAID COSTS, GUN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY & EDUCATION SPENDING

The work of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature is underway. The session, which began March 14th, is a so-called general session where a wide range of matters, except certain tax and revenue measures, may be considered. Legislators may pre-file an unlimited number of bills prior to the beginning of the session and five bills of a general nature after the session begins.

District 36 State Senator Ryan Gatti (R-Bossier City) pre-filed 27 bills dealing with various policy issues from abortion and healthcare costs to 2nd amendment rights and government efficiency. Included on the pre-filed bill list is Senate Bill 33. This bill bans the sale, receipt, transfer or acquisition of a fetal organ or body part from an induced abortion and subjects those who violate the law to felony prosecution with a minimum of ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000 if convicted.

“We hear all the talk about withholding funding for operations that participate in the sale of aborted fetal organs and body parts, but this is not just a defunding issue. It is a crime and should be treated as such,” Sen. Gatti said.

Other measures authored by Sen. Gatti are Senate Bill 38 and Senate Bill 46. Senate Bill 38 is an effort to hold down the cost of the state’s Medicaid program by reducing what the state will pay health care providers who treat Medicaid patients in emergency rooms for non-emergency conditions. This bill limits the amount the state will pay to the non-emergency rate rather than the higher emergency reimbursement. Senate Bill 46 protects a citizen from prosecution if they are legal gun owners and choose to carry their handguns without a conceal-carry permit.



Senator Gatti addresses the Louisiana State Senate with President Alario standing nearby.

“To me, these are just common sense proposals,” Sen. Gatti said. “It just makes sense that we should not pay to treat Medicaid patients for non-emergency conditions in expensive emergency rooms and we definitely shouldn’t be prosecuting citizens who can legally carry a firearm just because they did not pay a permit fee and take a training course.”

Two other bills on Sen. Gatti’s pre-filed bill list are Senate Bill 85 and Senate Bill 149. Senate Bill 85 seeks to determine once and for all if the state really could save money by eliminating certain supervisory positions across state agencies. The bill requires agencies to report to the legislature regarding their supervisor-to-staff ratios. Senate Bill 49 reduces the amount of state aid provided to virtual charter schools by 50% and reallocates the other 50% per student back to the local school system. The idea is that virtual schools do not have the extensive overhead costs associated with a brick and mortar operation.

Citizens may review Sen. Gatti’s proposed legislation on the Internet at the following link: <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearchList.aspx?srch=a> The deadline to file bills for consideration at this session is 6:00 p.m. April 5th. The session must end by 6:00 p.m. June 6th.

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